

I CLAIM:

1. A swivel caster having a top mounting member for attachment to the bottom of a vehicle; a bottom caster member having a caster wheel support extending downwardly therefrom with a caster wheel at the free end thereof; one of the top and bottom members having a stub shaft extending toward the other member, the other member having a circular bore for receiving the free end of the stub shaft and a counterbore concentric about the bore; a first bearing means comprising a stock bearing press fit mounted in one of the bore and the counterbore about the stub shaft, the first bearing means mounted to transfer load from the top member to the bottom member; and a second bearing means comprising a ring of loose balls mounted in an annular raceway, with part of the raceway formed in the circular wall defining the other of the bore and the counterbore, the second bearing means permitting rotation of the bottom member relative to the top member and retaining the stub shaft in the circular bore to connect the top and bottom members together.

2. A swivel caster as claimed in claim 1 wherein the bottom member has the stub shaft extending upwardly into the bore in the top member; the counterbore in the top member forming an annular chamber about the stub shaft with the stock bearing press fit mounted within the counterbore; the one part of the raceway formed in the wall of the bore and the other part of the raceway formed in the stub shaft.

3. A swivel caster as claimed in claim 1 wherein the bottom member has an upwardly extending circular pad, the stub shaft extending upwardly from the center of the pad; the pad mounted snugly in the counterbore, the bore forming an annular chamber about the stub shaft with the stock bearing press fit mounted within the bore; the one part of the raceway formed in the wall of the counterbore and the other part of the raceway formed in

the pad.

4. A swivel caster as claimed in claim 1 wherein the top member has the stub shaft extending downwardly into the bore in the bottom member; the counterbore in the bottom member forming an annular chamber about the stub shaft with the stock bearing press fit mounted within the counterbore; the one part of the raceway formed in the bore and the other part of the raceway formed in the stub shaft.

5. A swivel caster as claimed in claim 1 wherein the top member has a downwardly extending circular pad, the stub shaft extending downwardly from the center of the pad; the pad mounted snugly in the counterbore, the bore forming an annular chamber about the stub shaft with the stock bearing press fit mounted within the bore; the one part of the raceway formed in the wall of the counterbore and the other part of the raceway formed in the stub shaft.

6. A swivel caster as claimed in claim 1 wherein the stock bearing is a thrust ball bearing.

7. A swivel caster as claimed in claim 2 wherein the stock bearing is a thrust ball bearing.

8. A swivel caster as claimed in claim 3 wherein the stock bearing is a thrust ball bearing.

9. A swivel caster as claimed in claim 4 wherein the stock bearing is a thrust ball bearing.

10. A swivel caster as claimed in claim 5 wherein the stock bearing is a thrust ball bearing.